

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 205

5 By: Senator J. Key
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REPEAL OBSOLETE LAWS REGARDING MEDICARE
9 WAIVERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

11 TO REPEAL OBSOLETE LAWS REGARDING
12 MEDICARE WAIVERS.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-77-116 -- 20-77-118 are repealed.
20 ~~20-77-116. Medicare waiver to authorize high reimbursements in~~
21 ~~economically disadvantaged counties.~~

22 ~~(a) The General Assembly finds that:~~

23 ~~(1) Certain economically disadvantaged counties in this state~~
24 ~~are in dire need of additional access to medical treatment;~~

25 ~~(2) Improved access to medical treatment in economically~~
26 ~~disadvantaged counties can be achieved by offering incentives to physicians~~
27 ~~and health care facilities;~~

28 ~~(3) If Medicare reimbursements were based on need for access to~~
29 ~~care rather than on cost of living, the resulting increase in Medicare~~
30 ~~reimbursements would make this state's economically disadvantaged counties~~
31 ~~more attractive to physicians and would allow healthcare facilities in those~~
32 ~~counties to upgrade their medical services; and~~

33 ~~(4) As a result of increased Medicare reimbursements, more~~
34 ~~patients in economically disadvantaged counties would seek early medical~~
35 ~~treatment, thus reducing the severity of their medical conditions and the~~
36 ~~expense of treatment.~~



~~(b) It is the purpose of this section, § 20-77-117, and § 20-77-118 to seek an incentive whereby the number of physicians may be increased and the quality of health care facilities may be improved in this state's economically disadvantaged counties.~~

~~20-77-117. "Economically disadvantaged county" defined.~~

~~For purposes of this section, § 20-77-116, and § 20-77-118, "economically disadvantaged county" means any county of this state in which twenty five percent (25%) or more of the population lives below the poverty level as defined by the federal government.~~

~~20-77-118. State-federal relationship.~~

~~(a) The Department of Human Services shall seek a Medicare reimbursement policy waiver or appropriate cooperative relationship with the federal government to permit Arkansas to create a ten-year demonstration project in this state's economically disadvantaged counties for the purpose of increasing the number of physicians and improving the health care facilities in those economically disadvantaged counties.~~

~~(b) The waiver application will request the Health Care Financing Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to allow Medicare reimbursements for this state's economically disadvantaged counties to be set at the same rate as that of San Francisco.~~

APPROVED: 03/06/2013

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